

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

Hiroaki Sano et al.

Group Art Unit:

Application No.:

Examiner:

Filing Date: February 28, 2005

Confirmation No.:

Title: TUBE CONNECTING APPARATUS AND TUBE CONNECTING METHOD

GENERAL AUTHORIZATION FOR PETITIONS
FOR EXTENSIONS OF TIME AND PAYMENT OF FEES

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a)(3), the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby provided with a general authorization to treat any concurrent or future reply requiring a petition for an extension of time for its timely submission as containing a request therefor for the appropriate length of time.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-4800. This paper is submitted in duplicate.

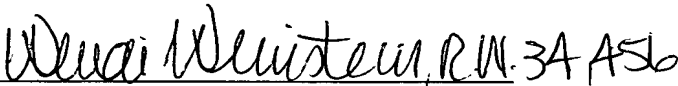
Respectfully submitted,

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